

The gap between the wealth of the settlers and that of the ordinary indigenous fallaheen was even greater in the mid 1930s. Village reports during this period indicate that many villages were almost totally bankrupt, to cite one example, that of the village of Dhahiria. In 1934, as a measurment to enforce taxes on this village, the government imposed a collective punishment and ordered the village to pay an amount of three thousand Liras.

Responding to the government order one villager was quoted saying:

Even if government decides to sell the village complete with all its 1,000 families it will not be able to squeeze three thousand Liras from us... (6)

Moreover, in absolute terms these sums of money meant a great deal for the development of the Jewish economy. Most of the money was concentrated in developing a relatively small area of land. According to the 1945-46 Survey of Palestine, out of a total agricultural area of 1,731,000d. under Jewish ownership in 1944, only 716,750d. or 41 per cent of the land was actually settled. The remaining 1,014,550d. or 59 per cent was put on reserve for future settlement.(7)

In addition, the purchasing power and the productive manner in which this capital was used greatly strengthened the development of Jewish agricultural settlements.

Beside the investment in specific commercial products, such as citrus, grapes and other vegetables and fruits, large sums of money were also used in advancing agriculture on scientific and technological bases.

### **Science and Technology in Agriculture**

Scientific research centres, experimental stations, demonstration plots and agricultural schools were but one aspect of the capitalist